

Negroes Win Exaggerated 'Riot'; Police Blasted By Public Opinion and Radio

Fifteen Santa Monica Police Arrested
Only Two Negroes

No charges Filed

LOS ANGELES.—(ANP)—As details of Sunday's Ocean Park "rae riot" became visible through a fog of inaccurate radio and news reportings, it appeared that the beach city's Santa Monica police force is due for an unprecedented public bombardment.

One of the two Negroes arrested in Sunday's incident has already announced plans for a smashing legal joust with charges against the Santa Monica gendarmerie on three scores: (1) false arrest, (2) false imprisonment, and (3) injuries as the result of a riot. *Black Dispatch*

Meanwhile, citizens gathered ammunition to blast the police organization for alleged flagrant negligence and partiality.

Sunday's Ocean Park blitzkrieg assertedly grew out of an exchange of epithets between members of a Pleasant Hill Baptist church outing and whites at the amusement pier. *Seph. 7, 1940*

According to statements by Smiley Booker, 32, Negro, arrested at the pier, he had been delegated by Santa Monica police to take charge of a colored boy who became involved in a fight with three white lads. As he conducted the youth from the amusement area, said Booker, dissension developed between a Negro woman near him who "assertedly" "spit back" at a white tormentor. A blow aimed at the woman caught Booker, incurring serious injuries to an eye and breaking one tooth.

A free-for-all followed in which at least four were wounded, including Dorth Edwards, Venice; Tom McCollister, San Diego; Laine Sharp, Ocean Park, and David Reese, Ocean Park. Despite the fact that scores of whites participated in the brief rioting, a squad of 15 Santa Mon-

ica police arrested only two Negroes, Tom Wilson and Booker. After a two-day incarceration, charges against Booker were dismissed; and none has yet been filed against Wilson.

Atty. Thomas L. Griffith, president of the Los Angeles branch of the N. A. A. C. P., has been secured as legal counsel by the Negro men.

Big Berthas of racial organizations are expected to shatter police for negligence in allowing the incident to develop beyond initial stages and asserted impartiality in quelling the disturbance. Mrs. Smiley Booker, wife of the arrest victim, charged that one Santa Monica officer gave a blackjack to a white rioter. hSe says he can be identified. Other reports consistently smash police inefficiency in failing to halt the trouble at its beginning.

A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday by Deputy District Attorney Melsaacs, assigned to the beach district, between Santa Monica police officials and a committee of representative Negro citizens. Object of the proposed conclave i to "arrange for cooperation" in preventing similar outbreaks in the future.

"Outrageous inaccuracies" in coverage of the flare-up by metropolitan sheets and news services feeding Los Angeles radio stations were also attacked. It was held that an exaggerated picture of the "race riot" had been reported.

Leaders also contested allegations that the Sunday incident reflected "growing interracial ill-feeling." Dr. Marcus O. Tucker, prominent Santa Monican, sparked the pooh-poohing movement when he proclaimed, "There is no racial ill-feeling of any importance here. If there were, the recent proposal to segregate beach areas would not have been snowed under by the voters of Santa Monica.

4 Whites, 1 Negro Injured

SANTA MONICA, Calif.—Four whites and one Negro injured Sunday in a race riot at a pier concession. Before police could quell the disturbance, sporadic fights erupted throughout the ocean park amusement area. Authorities said that approximately 50 whites and the same number of whites participated in the riot which followed name-calling and taunts. The injured, all suffering from knife wounds, were taken to the hospital.

RACE CLASHES CONTINUE AT OCEAN PARK

OCT - 6 1940

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 3—(AP)—Fear that serious trouble is in the offing as the Santa Monica police get worse local citizens are demanding action.

Ocean Park amusement area, fast becoming California's hottest interracial sorespot, produced another disturbance Tuesday night when two Negro couples were involved in minor riot after epithets had been hurled at them.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pegg and Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Drew were central figures in the disorder, third major outbreak within two months. The two men assertedly ordered hot dogs at a beach concession. The waiter "made some racial remark", and the two men were allegedly moving away from the stand when their wives approached. A bystander then passed a remark regarding Mrs. Pegg, it was stated. Her husband slapped the offender and the riot was on.

Suffers Head Injury

Drew, a pugilist, admitted "laying out" two whites during the scuffle. "It was all right," said Drew, "until they started coming at us in fifties. We gave up then and made our way to our car."

Pegg sustained severe injury about the head where he was struck with a baseball bat and his wife was cut across the wrist.

According to statements from the men, police officers did not appear until the battle was over. Later at the Santa Monica police station the two Negroes assertedly identified the man who struck Pegg with a baseball bat. He was released without charges being filed against him.

Grand Jury investigation of the Aug. 26 riot, which centered about a Pleasant Hill Baptist church excursion, is now pending.

Racial Clashes Still Flare Up On Coast

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Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
August 27, 1940

Attention, Senator Wagner

Senator Wagner, New York "Democrat," should be interested in the race riot which occurred in the Ocean Park amusement area at Santa Monica, Cal. The senator and his associates cannot blame that on the South. Will they not do something to protect the negroes from the Californians?

OCT 5 1940

FAMILY USES FIREARMS TO HALT WHITES

8-31-40

More Sheriffs Rushed To Hazel Park Suburb As Violence Threatens

DETROIT—A continuation of demonstrations by whites in front of the home of a family in Hazel Park, suburb of Detroit, caused Sheriff Spencer Howarth at Pontiac Thursday night to send additional officers to help control the growing mob which had threatened the home.

Frank DeGrando white, 22, of Ferndale, adjacent to Hazel Park, was held by police Thursday for investigation during a demonstration of 150 whites in front of the home Thursday night.

This marked the fourth consecutive night of the demonstration and a force of 13 deputy sheriffs was assigned to the house at 334 E. Bernhard avenue. Deputies said the crowd numbered over 200 at 11 p.m. and that missiles had been thrown through the window of the home.

Ill feeling toward John Mimms and his family, who have lived in the house for 18 years, developed last week when plans were started to enlarge the house and move it to the front part of the lot Mimms owns.

For the last few nights crowds have gathered about the home and bricks have been thrown through the windows, police said. On one night members of the Mimms family fired two shots to warn off the mob and officers seized two apparent ringleaders on successive nights but released them.

In addition to DeGrando, Arthur O. Nichols and Roscoe Monross, of Hazel Park, were arrested during previous demonstrations, and were tried Monday before John L. Halsey, Troy Township, on charges of disorderly conduct.

Efforts have been made by the whites to have Mimms sell the property which is in a settlement of middleclass whites, many of whom are foreigners. This effort was frustrated by Mimms who had declared that he will not sell.

The Detroit branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, entered the case last week when Dr. James J. McClendon, president of the branch, consulted with Mimms.

Following this conference both Dr. McClendon and Mimms announced that the property would not be sold.

They also declared that Mimms and his family would remain in the house, and that more police protection would be demanded, and those arrested would be prosecuted.

Police Called To Quell Mob Of 5,000 In Detroit As High School Students Start Riot

Lorenzo Pack, Former Title Contender, Among 15 Arrested; Seven Hurt In Fights

DETROIT, Mich.—Since the first fires of a riot flared here, last Tuesday, 15 persons have been arrested and more than seven others have been injured.

One of those arrested was Lorenzo Pack, former Golden Gloves amateur champion and ranking contender for the world's heavyweight boxing title. He was taken to the Grand Rapids Station despite the protest of Clarence Reading, son of former Mayor Richard W. Reading.

This man is all right," young Reading, who is a probation officer, told police when they stopped Pack for questioning. "In fact, he is a leader of Negro youth and is only here to calm his people down."

A cordon of 100 police was placed around the Northwestern High School, near the scene of the trouble, and educational officials conferred with students in an effort to disperse the mob of 5,000 white and colored citizens who milled near the school.

YOUTH STABBED
The trouble, which began on Friday of last week, reached riot proportions, Tuesday, when an 18-year-old youth was stabbed in a scuffle between a group of white and colored students of Northwestern High School.

School officials said, however, that the fighting was caused primarily by youths who were not students at Northwestern but "outsiders" who had come to the scene from as far away as Michigan avenue.

Late Tuesday afternoon actual fighting ceased, but roving groups of youths drifted up and down the streets, and at night the tension continued.

There was no serious fighting Wednesday at the school, but eight men and one woman were arrested for investigation of carrying concealed weapons. Six juveniles were also arrested.

WHITES HARASS NEGROES

Police reported that groups of white youths had been harassing groups of Negroes—and vice versa—although the issue was not clear.

The accepted version of the cause

of the fighting was that the whites felt they were being crowded out of Northwestern High School by an influx of Negro students. This, however, was emphatically denied by school authorities.

The few outbursts of slugging Wednesday were witnessed by 5,000 persons, police said. Traffic was hampered considerably, however, by the interest of the mob in the sporadic fist fights that broke out on street corners in isolated areas.

All Northwestern students were ordered to return to their homes on being released from classes on Thursday. Many students were sent to the office of B. J. Rivett, principal of the Northwestern High, who instructed them about official orders.

NEGRO PETITIONS

Rivett said that a group of Negro students, of their own initiative, started a petition last Wednesday pledging the signers to do all in their power to promote good racial relationship and prevent strife.

The Rev. Horace A. Whiten, pastor of the Plymouth Congregational Church, issued a statement last Wednesday in which he urged parents of both colored and white to explain the situation at home.

"The fighting should not be viewed with any alarm by either the Negro parents or the white parents," he declared. "From my own investigation and the observance of others, the fight was started by misguided students of both races."

"There were adults on the Negro side of the battle who were not wise and discreet in handling the situation as there were adults on the side of the whites who were not wise and discreet," he continued. "The officials

at Northwestern are taking a very fine and democratic attitude toward this whole incident."

CO-OPERATION ASKED

"If Negro parents would handle their end of it from the home, and if the white parents would do likewise and let the school end of it be handled by school officials everything would be adjusted. The parents of both sides should endeavor to have their children see how important it is that no race feeling develop in our schools."

"If our democracy, which we love so well, has any chance of working by all means it must work in our schools."

Approximately 100 policemen, including 50 uniformed men under Inspector Alfred Siska, a detail of mounted policemen, and a large detail of plain-clothes detectives were on the scene from early morning until school let out late in the afternoon.

Detroiters Clash With Police to Aid Negro Youth

Brutal Police Beating of Negro Youth Arouses Mass Protest

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Mich., July 7.—Detroit police today are holding four persons after a 30-minute riot on Belle Isle July 4 when 3,000 Negroes and whites attempted to rescue a Negro youth who had been apprehended after taking a ride in a canoe rented by another youth.

Despite contradictory reports of the riot it appears evident that the police here are committing the policy of brutality in handling Negroes that was established during the administration of former Police Commissioner Heinrich Pickert.

Joseph Kalvaitis, 22, renter of the canoe, had beached it and was standing at a refreshments stand nearby when he saw Melvin McConico, 18, Negro, of 609 Alfred St. paddling away.

Kalvaitis called Patrolman Andrew Smitz, who ordered McConico to return to the shore. As he beached the canoe, McConico started to run, followed by Smitz and a crew gathered.

After the arrest of McConico he was handcuffed and was being led toward the Belle Isle Police Station accompanied by other policemen who had appeared with the crowd following demanding his release. Someone in the crowd threw a rock at the policemen and when McConico ducked he was slugged with the handcuffs and fell to the ground. The police then are reported to have choked him and twisted his arms while he begged them to cease. This enraged the crowd who followed the prisoner and the police to the Belle Isle Station where a riot ensued.

The four policemen barricaded themselves in the station and when rocks and bottles thrown by both Negroes and whites began rattling against the walls summoned aid from the ManClellan Street station.

POLICE ARE GUILTY

By the time more police arrived the crowd had grown to 3,000 and the officers had to fight their way to the station. They drew their night sticks and after a 30-minute battle dispersed the crowd, who continued chanting:

"Turn him loose! Turn him loose!"

Detroit police are notorious for their maltreatment of Negroes and it is said that a riot would not have resulted from the arrest if the officers had not brutally attacked the Negro youth.

Numerous Negroes have been beaten and shot by police here without apparent reason and on every occasion the Wayne County Prosecutor's office has neglected to issue warrants for the cops involved.

The police here have constantly disregarded even the rules of the Police Department, and have been extremely careless in their handling of firearms and their treatment of suspects and prisoners. Recently a young white lad who was about to be married was shot by the police when he did not stop his car while they were chasing

him for violating the speed limit.

Frank Eaman, new police commissioner here, has thus far done a good job since taking office but there still remain remnants of Pickertism in the police department which must be cleaned out before the civil liberties of both Negroes and whites are respected in Detroit.

The Civil Rights Federation is reported to be investigating the Belle Isle riot but to date has released no statement to the press. These police attacks, particularly against Negroes, are regarded as a part of the war hysteria against minority groups, and are an attempt to attack the unity of Negro and white workers in United Automobile Workers Union, CIO.

July 4th Riot Condemned by Detroit Leaders

DETROIT — A demonstration on Belle Island July 4, in which a dozen policemen were injured and four persons were held on the charges of inciting a riot, has drawn a wave of condemnation from local leaders.

The demonstration was precipitated by the demands of a group of citizens that police free a young man who had been arrested after he is alleged to have taken a canoe which did not belong to him.

NAACP Scores Action

The Rev. Malcolm G. Dade, vicar of St. Cyprian Episcopal Church, and chairman of the legal redress committee of the local branch of the NAACP, stated Friday that his organization did not condone the action of the more than 300 persons who stormed the police station on Belle Isle.

Those held by police are Melvin McConico, 19, of 609 Alfred Street, who is alleged to have taken the canoe; Ulysses Walker, 19, of 3043 Belmont Street, Hamtramck; and a 15-year-old boy.

Charge Cop With Beating

Some of those who participated in the affair declared that McConico was beaten by the arresting officer, and then chained to a motorcycle. These persons charge that it was the action of the officer which precipitated the disturbance.

McConico, in jail, said that he had been beaten by the policeman before the demonstration. His allegation was substantiated by his mother. Many witnesses, however, stated that the attack on the officers was without provocation, and condemned the action of those who participated in the riot.

Citizens Are *Argus* Aroused by *8-23-40* The Action

paigh. Mrs. Sylvia Tzinberg told an Argus reporter Tuesday that she is the owner of the store and not Maurice Weiss. She said ill health caused her to turn the store over to Weiss after operating the store for many years. Sometime ago she stated Weiss told her that he could not get

Negro citizens of the East End along with the people "out there" of East St. Louis this week were and on several occasions had picketing a grocery store operated trouble with customers. Phillips by Maurice Weiss at 2117 Mis-said that Mrs. Tzinberg did not sours avenue in an attempt to town the store and did not leave close the store by curtailing busi- because of ill health because she ness after the white owner al- had been working in a grocery legedly struck and kicked a store operated by her father at youth during an argument Sat- 13th and Broadway since she left. urday night. *to Louis,*

After beating the youth Weiss people are acting like they are is reported to have gone across Mrs. Tzinberg said. I don't know the street into the Officer funeral what they want me to do. There home in search of a pistol to kill is no reason for them to want him. The youth, Louis Austin, to close my store when we have made his escape before he was been such good friends for so seriously injured. *Ms.* long. Why, I have raised most of

Mass meetings, attended by them and fed them when they hundreds of angry citizens, were didn't have money to buy food." held at the Officer funeral chapel She charged the leaders with Monday and Tuesday nights dur- owing her large sums of money ing which plans for proper pro- for groceries. She requested that cedure of picketing were made. the reporter go out in front of Testimonials were made by the store and inquire what the spokesmen of ill treatment of pickets wanted. The answer was customers by Weiss during the "We want this store closed". time he has operated the store The Young Men's Civic Club which is patronized almost en- served notice on other white tirely by Negroes. A freewill of- store owners catering to Negroes fering to obtain funds to have in that vicinity that they would literature condemning the store suffer the same consequences un- owner yielded over \$10. less they hired Negro clerks and

The meetings were presided give courteous and fair treatment. over by Eddie Lampley who was Relief orders formerly filled by assisted by William Officer, Wel- the Weiss store were changed to bon Phillips and Clarence Mc- other friendlier white stores by Cloud, the president of the Young special permission of relief au- Men's Civic Club, sponsors of thorties. Orders previously plac- the picket. Leaders spoke of of- ed in the store were permitted fers of large sums of money as to be filled but no new orders high as \$50 if the pickets would were taken. be withdrawn. The offers were not accepted.

Several incidents of intimidat- tion and disturbances were re- ported by police officers. A Ne- gro employee of the store was placed under arrest when he flourished a gun when picketeers attempted to persuade him not to deliver groceries in the white owner's automobile. A committee held a conference with Mayor John T. Conners regarding the picket and was told that they were within the law by picketing the store as long as they did not create a disturbance and their club held a charter.

The Young Men's Civic Club has a state charter and is as- suming leadership in the cam-

Riot Ended Boycott Is Considered

NEWARK, N.J.—While Thomas Dupree, 23, of 305 Fifteenth Avenue, lies in a critical condition from a severe butcher knife wound inflicted allegedly by Ben-zetto Mongioui, Italian of 82 South Orange Avenue, preparations are rapidly being made to throw a boy-cott around the white man's grocery and meat market.

Several hundred persons quickly gathered around the store and started a riot, following the incident, and were finally dispersed by police.

During this time, windows were smashed and a mob had been formed, whose leader had threatened to go in and "clean out the place."

Conflicting Versions

Several versions of the occur-rence are advanced. One is that Dupree and two companions were walking up the street, Saturday, when one of the three brushed against a basket of onions on the outside of the store, knocking it over.

After the men had gone a few steps, Dupree is said to have come back to pick up the onions.

Mongioui allegedly began a quarrel with Dupree, when the latter told him, "I am doing you a favor; the other man knocked the onions over and I came back to pick them up."

Spoiled Meat Blamed

Another version is that Du-ree went into the store and made a purchase of some meat which he found to be spoiled. and that

in trying to make an adjustment, the men got into a quarrel and a fight ensued.

But, according to the police record, Dupree was passing the store and brushed against the Italian, who was standing in front. An argument took place and Dupree picked up a bench and threw it at the Italian.

The latter threw a box at Dupree, according to the account, rushed into the store, secured a butcher knife and stabbed Dupree in the side.

The wounded man, bleeding profusely, struggled to a box on the sidewalk and sat there nearly a half hour before he was taken to the hospital.

Captain Joseph Quinn, of the Fourth Precinct, told the Afro that conditions were so tense Saturday evening, that he was force a police guard around the store. The Italian was arrested, charged with assault and battery and placed under a \$1,000 bond.

Monday morning, men and women of the neighborhood were making a house to house canvass, asking patrons to boycott the store. The Afro was informed that if the Italian is freed of the charges, a picket line will be placed around his store.

Afro-American
7-27-40

RIOTS- 1940

NEW YORK

ALERT ACTION AVERTS RIOTS ON LONG ISLAND AFTER SLAYING

SEP 21 1940

*Amsterdam News
New York City*



When police swooped down on the Negro residential district in Inwood on the mad hunt for the slayer of Policeman Charles Shaw, scores of persons were "pushed" around. Left to right are Leon Jackson, Charles Bibbs, James Cousar and James Smith, all residents of Inwood, who were "sapped up" by the cops. Smith was arrested so many times the police decided to give him a pass to walk the streets. Bibbs, second from left, points to a scar he received when he was prodded by a cop's gun.

NO RIOT AS RACES BATTLE

Official Probe Launched in Dunn, N.C., as Tension Passes—Whites Alleged to Have Beaten Negroes.

DUNN, N. C., Feb. 29.—Though a number of isolated fights between white and colored residents occurred in widely separated sections of town, threatened general rioting between members of the two races that had been feared by authorities, failed to develop here during the past week-end, and quiet had been restored by Tuesday evening. With the restoration of normal conditions, an investigation was launched to determine if possible the identities of members of a group of young white men who are said to have overpowered and whipped a number of colored citizens last week.

The appearance of the group and the alleged whippings followed the death of Police Officer Martin Underwood, who was killed by a brick reported to have been hurled by someone inside the place when he and several other officers raided a local Negro cafe. The whippings ceased abruptly when Mayor Herbert B. Taylor announced the emergency addition of fifteen special policemen to the force, and that immediate arrest could be expected by participants in any further violence or disorder.

Mayor Taylor expressed the view that the crowd of young white hoodlums who were quoted as shouting they wanted revenge and were "cut to get all 'n—rs," were "outsiders," but said regardless of where they were from he intends to do everything in his power to bring them to justice. None of the Negroes, who reported they had been whipped or otherwise mistreated by members of the group, had the slightest connection with the death of Policeman Underwood, the Mayor said.

Three Negro men have been arrested as suspects in the officer's

death, and are being held in jail. No attempt or threat has been made to harm them, but special precautions have been taken by Sheriff W. E. Salmon to assure their safety.

Dunn, N. C. Dispatch
February 16, 1940

Miserable Failure

There is rejoicing here today because the "Greasy Spoon," building used by Negroes for a dine-dance place, is no more. And possibly the destruction of the building by fire is generally approved by both whites and Negroes.

We certainly are not losing any sleep over the fact that the "Greasy Spoon" is not operating, and would have approved closing the place months ago had we known of the general conditions there.

But the rejoicing is also a source of deep regret to all right-thinking, peaceful, and law-abiding citizens here. Not because there is no more the way it went from our midst—by fire.

A fire at the place about twenty-four hours earlier has been pronounced "a clear case of arson" by the chief of the volunteer fire department, and it is suspected that it was deliberately set fire the second time. No evidence was found, according to the fire chief, to substantiate the suspicion, but two fires in succession in the same unoccupied building is sufficient grounds for belief that it was intentionally burned by some unknown party, or parties.

If the young, hot-headed element among white folks of the city fired the building as revenge on the Negroes who frequented the place because a police officer died of wounds received in a near-riot there, it was a miserable failure as retaliation.

If some of the decent, self-respecting Negroes of the town burned the building to stop others of their race from frequenting the place, it is just as ugly an incident in the history of the city.

Any group that acts under cover of darkness to hide its deeds is a cowardly mob with criminal intent. Taking the law in their hands, so to speak, and destroying an agreed public nuisance by fire is arson and

punishable by law. If identity of the perpetrators can be established.

The police were not aided in their investigation of the murder of a fellow-officer, the Negroes at the establishment when the officer was hurt were not harmed by the fire—only the owner of the building and city suffered.

Loss of the building is felt by the owner, a white man, and the city, which must pay firemen for answering two alarms because of fire at the place.

If the building was burned on purpose, it is a shame the dim-wits who set fire to it couldn't see the results, and when the mob rules it is more often than not an innocent bystander who suffers most.

The law is sometimes slow, but in such instances as has happened here it should be allowed to take its course without interference on the part of citizens who hinder more than they help at such times.

Preventing the wilful destruction of personal and public property, and protecting it, is as important a function of the police department as arresting murderers.

Sentence Three For Rioting In North Carolina

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.—(ANP)—Characterized as "ringleaders" in the riot of 1,500 persons over replacing the Negro manager of a motion picture theatre with a white man, three of eight colored men on trial for conspiracy and other charges were sentenced to two years on the roads Friday by Judge Fentress Horner. Disposition of the case of a fourth awaits information on whether he is old enough to come under the court's jurisdiction.

The three found guilty were March Jones, John T. White and Elenza Statten. The youth whose fate was not decided is Willie Wilson. Those freed included Doland Spellman, manager of the theatre, who was arrested on charges of conspiracy to riot although he was not present at any time during the demonstration.

Charlotte, N. C. News
June 24, 1940

Negro Riot Against Police Looks Ominous

Inside Story Reveals Trouble Has Elements For Despair and Hope Now Shown by Record

The inside story of the near-riot by Negroes against the City Police at First and McDowell Streets (America's most murderous street corner) Saturday night is both more ominous and more hopeful than the bare record shows. Major Walker, accused by Officers Frady and Campbell of being one of the leaders of the gang that snatched George Brown from arrest and attacked the officers with rocks and bottles, demanded a jury trial in City Recorder's Court this morning and

went over to Superior Court for trial.

The attack on the police has quite a story behind it, and may have an even more tragic story before it. The Brooklyn section of the city is purely Negro in population and has perhaps 8,000 to 10,000 persons living in its compact oblong area.

The time was, under the old police methods, when law and order was enforced by opposing violence to violence and the violent element among the Negroes was kept more or less under subjection. Then rose a great disturbance, with what provocation is not now the important question, protesting against police violence. The protest came in such a way as to make it representative of the whole Negro group, and the police then tended to relax their efforts for law enforcement in that territory.

In the last year sixteen murders have been committed in hailing distance of First and McDowell Streets, and the law-abiding Negroes have been signing petitions and making individual pleas for more police protection. Some of the church congregations made special prayers that Officers Frady and Campbell, who have intimate knowledge of Negro life, be sent among them to uphold the law.

The law-abiding Negroes of the section are in a great majority over the violent ones. One estimate is that when about 100 Negroes have been handled by the law the vio-

lence will cease and the law-abiding citizens will be in control of the section. The new police protection came and the better citizens have been supporting them with an earnestness that has tended to group the violent into uncomfortably close quarters. Saturday night's rebellion against the Police was considered as something like a last-stand effort.

The police today were hearing threats that next Saturday night will see more violence and that last Saturday night was mild compared to what is coming. They were taking their time, expecting almost anything to happen, and getting prepared for it. Next Saturday night may be the turning point for which the law-abiding Negroes have been praying.

White Manager For Negro Theater Brings Mob, But No Riot!

Elizabeth City, N. C.—(CNA)—More than 1,200 Negro citizens shouted angry protests at the height of a demonstration against the replacing of a Negro theater manager, Roland Stellman, by a white manager.

The size of the crowd alarmed local police and they called all available reinforcements, including the Coast Guard. There was no disorder.

The scene was the Gaiety Theater, owned by the Carolina Amusement Co., a white concern which operates both regular and jim crow theaters, with the Negro patrons of the latter barred from the regular so-called white theaters of the chain.

Citizens Protest Giving Theatre Job to White

Police Bring Machine
Guns into Play; Coast
Guardsmen is Beaten

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.—Colored citizens here re-
sented the replacement of a
Negro manager of a theater
here by a white man and Mon-
day night racial disorders
popped out, resulting in the
beating of a white coast
guardsman and the arrest of
at least two colored men.

City officials said an estimated
1,000 to 1,500 gathered near the
theater in protest against the re-
placement action. State highway
patrolmen and 25 to 30 guardsmen
from the Coast Guard Air Base
here dispersed the crowd.

It was alleged that a band of
men attacked police and firemen
with rocks and bottles near the
theater.

A squad of police, firemen and
state highway patrolmen answer-
ed Patrolman John Winslow's call
for assistance. On arrival, the
officers reported, they were pelted
with rocks.

Mayor Into Picture

Mayor Jerome Flora, summoned
to the scene, asked the colored men
to leave and to send a committee
to confer with him the following
day on their grievance. All but
about 500, the officers said left
and those remaining began throw-
ing rocks again.

About 12 or 20 State highway
patrolmen were ordered from near-
by Williamston, along with Coast
Guardsmen, who were armed with
hand grenades and submachine
guns.

Acting Sergeant E. E. Pritchard,
white, said F. R. Reggio, of the
coast guard, patrolling near the
theater, started questioning several
colored men in an automobile.

The car door was opened and
the guardsman was struck on the
head by a blunt instrument, the
officer added. The guardsman
suffered a bruise over his eye.

Pritchard said the men drove
off but were stopped later by
officers and two of them arrested.

It was not learned, however,
just what damages were suffered
by the colored persons at the hands
of the armed white police and
guardsmen.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Advance
September 12, 1940

Negro Leaders Express Desire To Prevent Any Future Violence

Appear Before Mayor Flo- ra with Resolutions on Monday's Incident

A group of eight prominent Ne-
groes headed by J. R. Fleming ap-
peared before Mayor Jerome Flora
this morning and presented him
with resolutions signed by them-
selves, in which they pledged their
efforts in working to prevent any
future recurrence of Monday
night's riot at the Gaiety Theatre
and expressed their deep regret of
the occurrence itself.

They also stated that they did
not feel that the occurrence could
be considered an index of race
friction in Elizabeth City, as some
persons have indicated they be-
lieved.

The resolutions, as signed by J.
R. Fleming, C. F. Graves, E. A.
Anderson, Harold L. Trigg, presi-
dent of State Teachers College,
the Rev. C. M. Cartwright, pastor
of Olive Branch Baptist Church,
G. W. Cardwell, E. L. Hoffler, and
J. T. Davis, are as follows:
"Mayor J. B. Flora,
Elizabeth City, N. C.
Sir:

"In view of the occurrences in
the vicinity of the Gaiety Theatre
on Shepard street, Monday evening
September 9, 1940, we the under-
signed citizens of this community,
acting on our own initiative, feel
impelled to make the following
statement:

"First—That we deeply regret
the occurrence itself, and pledge
our efforts in working towards the
prevention of a similar occurrence
in this or in any community in
the future, and that we are in
unanimous and wholehearted
agreement that violence is never
the means for making a friendly
and permanent adjustment in such
a situation, and we are opposed
to the use of it, or any lawless
process or method for making hu-
man adjustments. We feel further,
that this statement of our views
represents the thinking of the vast
majority of the citizens of this
community.

"Second—That we are convinc-
ed that the occurrence could not in
any sense be considered as an in-
dex of race friction between the
races of this community in which
most cordial relations have exist-
ed throughout former years. We
also state that after a thorough

and unbiased investigation, if in-
dividuals have been found who
are directly responsible for the
unfortunate occurrence, then we
favor dealing with them according
to the due process of law.

"Third—That we are grateful to
the mayor and any other of the
officials for their sane efforts in
trying to secure a peaceful and
an agreeable solution of the trou-
bled condition."

Sentence 3 In N. C. Riot At Theatre SEP 28 1940

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.—ANP—
Characterized as "ringleaders" in
the riot of 1,500 persons over re-
placing the Negro manager of a mo-
tion picture theatre with a white
man, three of eight men on trial
for conspiracy and other charges
were sentenced to two years each
on the roads Friday by Judge Fen-
tress Horner.

Disposition of the case of a fourth
awaits information on whether he
is old enough to come under the
court's jurisdiction.

The three found guilty were
March Jones, John T. White and
Elenza Statten. The youth whose
fate was not decided is Willie Wil-
son. Those freed included Roland
Spellman, manager of the theatre,
who was arrested on charge of con-
spiracy to riot although he was not
present at any time during the dem-
onstration.

Jones and Statten have filed no-
tice of appeal.

The disorder, which took place a
week ago Monday night, resulted in
the calling out of police, firemen,
highway patrolmen and national
guardsmen. The mayor hurriedly
left city council meeting and ad-
dressed the gathering in an attempt
to quell the demonstration.

Happy Ending To An Unfortunate Incident

SEP 21 1940

CITIZENS of both races in Elizabeth City may count themselves fortunate in that the disturbance last week which grew out of the dismissal of the colored manager of the community's only theatre catering to race patronage, has had no more serious consequences than seem to be apparent at this time.

While sane leadership in both races has been shocked and aggrieved by the unfortunate occurrence there appears to be no cause to interpret the demonstration as a serious breach of the peaceful relations which have always existed between the two races in the community.

There is cause for thanksgiving as well as vast relief that peace and order prevail, and that life is going on in its normal routine so soon after a disturbance which might easily have resulted not only in the loss of life, but which might have seriously impaired race relations for a long time to come.

In such a crisis it is encouraging to note that a group of race leaders took the initiative in drawing up a set of resolutions deploring the incident and pledging their best efforts toward preventing a recurrence of such trouble in the future. Eminent proper was their conclusion that the demonstration can in no wise be considered an index of race friction in Elizabeth City, and their further statement that they favor a thorough and unbiased investigation of the affair.

Reports of the trial of several persons arrested in connection with the disturbance indicate that only those who were directly responsible for instigating the trouble will be punished according to law, and that the more serious charge of "aiding and abetting a conspiracy to incite to riot," were properly reduced to the relatively minor offense of disorderly conduct and the destruction of private property.

SEP 21 1940

We rejoice with the citizens of Elizabeth City and offer our congratulations for their tactful handling of such a delicate situation with the fervent hope that no such incident will ever occur again. Truly, "all's well that ends well."

NEGROES RIOT IN CAROLINA, INJURING ONE

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.—The Associated Press announced a coast guardsman was injured slightly early today by state highway patrolmen and coast guardsmen dispersed a band of Negroes who had attacked police and firemen with rocks and bottles near a theater in this seacoast city.

Acting Sergeant E. E. Prithard said two Negroes were arrested in connection with an assault on F. R. Reggio, attached to the coast guard air base here and one of 25 to 30 guardsmen on duty following the disorders. City officials said an estimated 400 to 1500 Negroes gathered near a Negro Theater last night, protesting replacement of the theater's Negro Manager by a white man.

A squad of police, firemen and state highway patrolmen answered Patrolman John Winslow's call for assistance. On arrival, the officers reported, they were pelted with rocks.

Mayor Jerome Flora, summoned to the scene, asked the Negroes to leave and send a committee to confer with him today on their grievance. All but about 500, officers said, left, and those remaining began throwing rocks again.

About 15 or 20 state highway patrolmen were ordered from nearby Williamston along with coast guardsmen, who were armed with hand grenades and sub-machine guns.

Negroes Riot As Theatre Manager Is Displaced; Ten Are Jailed On False Charges

Riot Squad, Fire Department Called Out To Drive Angry Mob From Scene

SEP 21 1940

Two Thousand Crowd Street

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.—(ANP)—Angered because the manager of the Gaiety theatre, movie house serving Negro patrons, had been fired and apparently replaced by a white man, a crowd of 1,500 colored persons rioted here Monday night and was dispersed only when all available

policemen, firemen and highway ficer, Patrolman John Winslow, patrolmen had been rushed to the thinking it was a routine matter, scene. When he got there, he said he

As the aftermath of this demonstration, 10 persons were arrested, among them Roland C. Spellman, deposed manager, who faces a charge of conspiracy to incite riot although he was not present when the trouble began or during the affair. He was hauled out of bed at 4 a. m. Tuesday and taken to jail in bathrobe and pajamas where he posted bond of \$1,000.

According to Spellman, he worked at the theatre all day Sunday and in the afternoon was told by the manager of the chain of theatres operated by the Carolina Amusement Corporation, W. T. Culpepper, that the company might have to let him go in the interest of economy. That night he was dismissed and given a week's salary in advance.

When the theatre opened Monday afternoon, a white man was seen in the manager's post. It was later explained that he was employed by the corporation to manage all three Elizabeth City theatres, two white and one colored. However, Negro residents did not know this and at 6:30 p. m. appeared as pickets and asked that nobody attend the show because the Negro manager had been replaced by a white man.

As the evening wore on, a crowd gathered until there finally was an estimated 2,000 standing around chanting "We want Spellman." When the throng refused to disperse, a call was put in to police headquarters. A lone of-

er measures." *OKlahoma*

Part of the crowd dispersed but others didn't and a pop bottle was thrown at the cops. The officers tried to drive the demonstrators up the street but they kept drifting back. Coast guardsmen and highway patrolmen were called. They came with hand grenades and submachine guns, finally breaking up the rioters. Highway patrolmen remained on special duty through most of the week.

Two of the 10 arrested were D. L. Simons of Powellsville and H. H. Hart of Winton, delegates to the annual convention of Love and Charity lodge which started Monday evening, who were charged with "assault" and held in bonds of \$250 each. They declared they were in a car at the site of the demonstration and when a guardsman put his foot on the running board, they started the machine, throwing him off. The guardsman declared he was "struck with a gun" but no gun was found on the two men or in the car.

The others held, all from Elizabeth City, are Spellman, Mayo Williams, John T. White, Alonzo Staton, Banks Staton, Willis Wilson, James White and March Jones.

SEP 21 1940

"We're getting a raw deal!"

The mob took up the cry and somebody started throwing rocks. A riot call was sent to police headquarters and other officers came, along with city firemen and a highway patrolman. They were armed with piltols, rifles, a tear gas gun and a hose. The armed officers backed the demonstrators across the street but persons in the crowd continued to throw bricks, rocks and the other missiles, inflicting minor wounds on the police.

Meanwhile, Mayor J. B. Flora, in the middle of a city council meeting, rushed to the theatre and addressed the croud, saying:

"If you think that you have been done an injustice, go to your homes and appoint a committee to arbitrate the matter in a peaceful manner. Our two races have lived together peacefully here. There is no reason why we should not continue to do so. I will be glad to meet your committee tomorrow to see that you are given fair consideration."

"We do not want any trouble but if you want to start something we are ready on this end. Now go on home. We are going to give you a reasonable time to leave and then we will take stern-

Riot Starts When Negro Manager Is Replaced By White; 10 Arrested

SEP 20 1940

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., Sept. 20 (ANP)—Angered because the manager of the Gaiety theatre, movie house serving Negro patrons, had been fired and apparently replaced by a white man, a crowd of 1,500 colored persons rioted here Monday night and was dispersed only when all available policemen, firemen and highway patrolmen had been rushed to the scene.

As the aftermath of this demonstration, 10 persons were arrested, among them Roland C. Spellman, displaced manager, who faces a charge of conspiracy to incite riot although he was not present when the trouble began or during the affair. He was hauled out of bed at 4 a.m. Tuesday and taken to jail in bathrobe and pajamas where he posted bond of \$1,000.

According to Spellman, he worked at the theatre all day Sunday and in the afternoon was told by the manager of the chain of theatres operated by the Carolina Amusement Corp., W. T. Culpepper, that the company might have to let him go in the interest of economy. That night he was dismissed and given a week's salary in advance.

When the theatre opened Monday afternoon, a white man was seen in the manager's post. It was later explained that he was employed by the corporation to manage all three Elizabeth City theatres, two white and one colored. However, Negro residents did not know this and at 6:30 several appeared as pickets and asked that nobody attend the show because the Negro manager had been replaced by a white man.

As the evening wore on, a crowd gathered until there finally was an estimated 2,000 standing around chanting, "We want Spellman". When the throng refused to disperse, a call was put in to police headquarters. A lone officer, Patrolman John Winslow, thinking it was a routine matter went to the scene.

When he got there, he tried to reason with the crowd and it looked as if the demonstration would end. About 500 of the group went home. Then, according to the officer, somebody shouted:

"We're getting a raw deal!"

The mob took up the cry and somebody started throwing rocks. A riot call was sent to police headquarters.

The others held, all from Elizabeth City, are Spellman, Mayo Williams, John T. White, Alonzo Staton, Banks Staton, Willis Wilson, James White and March Jones.

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DISPLACING COLORED THEATRE MANAGER WITH WHITE CAUSES NEAR RACE RIOT

SEP 21 1940

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C.—This city experienced a near race riot on Monday when more than 1,000 patrons ganged the colored theatre here protesting the replacement of the colored manager with a white man.

Coast Guardsman F. R. Reggio, one of the first twenty-five officers called to the area, was reported injured, and squad police, firemen, and highway patrolmen said they were pelted with rocks at the scene.

Mayor Jerome Flora, who was called to the scene in an attempt to restore peace, asked the patrons to leave and send him a grievance committee.

About half of the crowd left, but the others remained and the riot was on again. Police declared they had to use hand-grenades and sub-machine guns to disperse the crowd. Several arrests were made.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Advance
September 11, 1940

Booker Washington Showed the Way

Today's News and Observer is absolutely right in pointing out that Negroes in Elizabeth City who engaged in a riot because of displacement of a Negro ticket taker at the Gaiety Theatre have not learned their lesson as well as have leaders of their race in other sections.

"By resorting to force," well says the News and Observer, "Elizabeth City Negroes not only placed themselves in an indefensible position; they joined the issue in a forum where they did not have a vestige of a chance to win."

That's exactly what Mayor Flora told the mob Monday night in his partially successful effort to disperse it. He well urged that there were peaceful ends by which their objectives could be sought and that in peaceful means they had their only hope of achieving their objectives.

Negroes in Elizabeth City, in North Carolina and in the South have made great progress within the last generation under a leadership inspired generally by Booker T. Washington and those who follow in his train. All this progress has come in the ways of peace and if progress is to continue it must be through the ways of peace.

Oust Theatre Manager in Carolina, 1500 in Riot

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.—Angered because the manager of the Gaity theatre, movie house serving Negro patrons, had been fired and apparently replaced by a white man, a crowd of 1,500 colored persons gathered here Monday night and was dispersed only when all available policemen, firemen and highway patrolmen had been rushed to the scene.

As the aftermath of this demonstration, 10 persons were arrested, among them Roland C. Spellman, deposed manager, who faces a charge of conspiracy to incite riot although he was not present when the trouble began or during the affair. He was hauled out of bed at 4 a.m. Tuesday and taken to jail in bathrobe and pajamas where he posted bond of \$1,000.

"In Interest of Economy" According to Spellman, he worked at the theatre all day Sunday and in the afternoon was told by the manager of the chain of theatres operated by the Carolina Amusement Corp., W. T. Culpepper, that the company might have to let him go in the interest of economy. That night he was dismissed and given a week's salary in advance.

When the theatre opened Monday afternoon, a white man was seen in the manager's place. It was later explained that he was employed by the corporation to manage all three Elizabeth City theatres, two white and one colored. However, Negro residents did not know this and at 6:30 several appeared as pickets and asked that nobody attend the show because the Negroma nager had been replaced by a white man.

As the evening wore on, a crowd gathered until there finally was an estimated 2,000 standing around chanting "We want Spellman." When the throng refused to disperse, a call was put in to police headquarters. A lone officer, Patrolman John Winslow, thinking it was a routine matter, went to the scene.

When he got there, he said he tried to reason with the

crowd and it looked as if the demonstration would end. About 500 of the group went home. Then, according to the officer somebody shouted:

"We're getting a raw deal!"

Elizabeth City, N. C. Advance

November 27, 1940

12 Negroes Held For Race Rioting

Three White Men Are Now Serving Prison Terms

Windsor, Nov. 27.—Deputy Sheriff George Keeter arrested 12 Negroes Tuesday who are charged with participating in the Bloody Cross riot near here on the night of September 21.

As an aftermath of the riot, the stations where the riot occurred have been padlocked, and three white men are serving road sentences for mobbing a Negro.

Those arrested Tuesday were: Buddie Holley, Alton Holley, Lee, James and Charles Warren, Ed Leary, R. Slade, James Warren, Bill Capehart, Sam Capehart, Buster Leary and William Gaskins.

The men will be tried Monday in Judge F. D. Winston's Bertie County court.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Advance
September 10, 1940

All Quiet Today After Negro Riot At Gaiety

**Most of the Mob Disperses
After Mayor J. B. Flora
Reasons with Them; Lat-
ter Outbreak Quelled**

SEVERAL INJURED

**Police, S.H.P., Firemen,
and Coast Guardsmen
with Tommy Guns Used
to Protect Theatre**

A sullen mob of Negroes gave Elizabeth City its first race riot in history last night at the Gaiety Theatre on Shepard street when a large crowd of the Negro population gathered to picket the movie house because the colored manager, Roland Spellman, had been asked to resign.

The only actual clash occurred about 1:30 a. m. when F. Reggio, chief machinists' mate at the Coast Guard Air Station, was struck, reportedly, in the face with the butt of a pistol by one of two Negroes who attempted to run the guard blockade of Shepard street.

The Negroes fled and were altered most immediately picked up by routine. He attempted to reason Corporal Tom Brown and Patrolman John Winslow, who became the hero of the evening, thinking that it was but a routine call went to the scene alone.

Winslow was not long in discovering that the call was far from routine. He attempted to reason the crowd and said that at one time it looked as if all was going to quiet down and that the demonstration would end. Then, according to the patrolman, one of the ring-leaders in the back cried: "We're getting a raw deal!" and then all the Negroes responded in a chorus of "We're getting a raw deal!" and "We're getting a raw deal!"

Reggio said when he stopped his car he saw a pistol in the lap of one of the men and was trying to get the man with the

pistol out of the car when the assault occurred and the men tried for their get-away.

Reggio was not seriously injured.

This morning six more Negroes were placed in jail on charges of creating a public disturbance. They were: March Jones, John White, Alenza Staten, Banks Staten, Willie Wilson and James White. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Roland Spellman and Mayo Williams were still being held at noon today in default of \$1,000 bond on charges of aiding and abetting a conspiracy.

Trial was set for Wednesday, September 18, in recorder's court.

The demonstration started at about 8 o'clock when the pickets noisily protested when an attempt was made to enter the theatre.

The climax came when stones began to fly breaking some of the windows in the door and others in the advertising panels on the sides of the entrance.

Winslow Answers Call

The police department was called and Patrolman John Winslow, who became the hero of the evening, thinking that it was but a routine call went to the scene alone.

Winslow was not long in discovering that the call was far from routine. He attempted to reason the crowd and said that at one time it looked as if all was going to quiet down and that the demonstration would end.

Then, according to the patrolman, one of the ring-leaders in the back cried: "We're getting a raw deal!" and then all the Negroes responded in a chorus of "We're getting a raw deal!" and "We're getting a raw deal!"

What followed immediately was the story of one man against many, and Winslow was hit three times with assault with a deadly weapon on an officer of the law doing his duty with intent to kill, and with carrying a concealed weapon.

Meanwhile the police headquarters was again called along with the city fire department and State Patrolman Louis Lane.

The policemen were armed with pistols, rifles and one tear gas gun and the mob backed across the street on both corners and

stood jeering noisily at the handful of white men. The firemen were ready with a hose.

Rocks were thrown, parts of bricks and other missiles. One rock gashed open Patrolman Lane's arm as it struck. Others hit were Firemen Claude Ziegler and Claude Bailey. None were seriously injured.

Mayor Flora this morning expressed his appreciation of the coolness with which the firemen, as well as other officers, went about their business. "They did a fine job," he said.

J. Holland Webster, manager of the Carolina Amusement Company was also struck with a rock, but luckily his suit coat prevented his being injured.

Webster said that the Negro manager at the theatre had not been replaced by anyone, that Spellman was released in order to reduce expenses and that William White Jr. of Hertford, thought by the Negroes to be the new manager, was recently appointed overseer for all three Elizabeth City theatres.

White's automobile was in the path of the mob and when all had cleared away, the right front tire had to be removed because of severe cuts in it, evidently made with a razor.

Other cars were hit with bricks, boards with nails and they tried to upset the police patrol wagon. Not a shot was fired.

Flora Appears On Scene

Mayor Jerome Flora in the middle of a city council meeting rushed to the theatre and there addressed the Negroes.

He reminded them that there had never been race troubles in Elizabeth City and asked them to go to their homes and appoint a committee to meet with him in the morning in order to settle the differences.

"I'm asking you to go to your homes within a reasonable length of time," the mayor said, "and if you remain—God knows we can give it to you from this end."

Part of the crowd dispersed. A large part did not and it looked for the time that blood might yet be shed, for the rioters grouped again on the corners and, more quiet than before, eyed the small group of policemen, headed by Police Chief R. C. Madrin and Sheriff W. L. Thompson. A small group of white men volunteered, automatically, to stand alongside the po-

licemen and stand guard with them on ground in front of the theatre, knowing that the place might soon become a battlefield. There were members of the city council, the police commission along with soda jerkers and high school students.

There was the quiet of impending doom.

Ironically, the picture at the theatre for the night was "Torrid Zone."

Suddenly a pop bottle flew through the air from the riot-makers ranks and the police went into action, driving the Negroes up the streets.

But they kept drifting back.

In the meantime, Coast Guardsmen were called and men from divisions one, two and three of the State highway patrol.

Coast Guard Arrives

The Guardsmen were the first to arrive, armed with hand grenades and "tommy" (sub-machine) guns. They blocked and guarded each of the roads and it was not long until the rioters were broken up and, apparently, sent off to their homes.

The Guardsmen were under the personal command of Lieutenant R. L. Burke, commander of the station.

At midnight officers said that they expected no more trouble.

Roland Spellman, the former Negro manager, came to Mayor Flora in front of the theatre soon after the crowd had gone and denied having known—even having the slightest idea—that anything of the sort would take place. He added:

"If my friends wanted to take this attitude, there wasn't anything I could do about it."

Mayor Flora expressed regret that anything so threatening to the peaceful relations between the two races should happen here.

Sergeant F. T. Winslow, veteran member of the city police department, recalled that the last race riot in the section he could bring to mind was 45 years ago in Edenton.

Webster said last night that the Gaiety would open tonight as usual.

W. T. Culpepper, owner of the Gaiety Theatre, this morning estimated the damage to the theatre at about \$200.

Gastonia N. C. Gazette
September 10, 1940

ELIZABETH CITY HAS RACE RIOT

**Coast Guardsman Injured
As Negroes Attack Offi-
cers; Protested Employ-
ment Of White Man In
Negro Theater.**

ELIZABETH CITY, Sept. 10—(AP)

—A coast guardsman was injured slightly today as state highway patrolmen and coast guardsmen dispersed a band of Negroes who had attacked police and firemen with rocks and bottles near a theater in this sea coast city.

Acting Sergeant E. E. Pritchard said two Negroes were arrested in connection with an assault on F. R. Reggio, one of 25 to 30 coast guardsmen on duty following the disorders.

City officials said an estimated 1,000 to 1,500 Negroes gathered near a Negro theater last night, protesting replacement of the theater's Negro manager by a white man.

A squad of police, firemen and state highway patrolmen answered Patrolman John Winslow's call for assistance. On arrival, the officers reported, they were pelted with rocks.

Mayor Jerome Flora, summoned to the scene, asked the Negroes to leave and send a committee to confer with him today on their grievance. All but about 500, officers said left, and those remaining began throwing rocks again.

About 15 or 20 state highway patrolmen were ordered from nearby Williamston along with coast guardsmen, who were armed with hand grenades and sub-machine guns.

The Negroes, Pritchard said, drove off, but were stopped later by officers and two of them arrested.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
September 11, 1940

Simple Remedy

Negroes in Elizabeth City who engaged in a riot because of replacement of a Negro manager of a Negro moving picture theatre by a white manager have not learned their lesson as well as have leaders of their race in other sections.

By resorting to force, Elizabeth

City Negroes not only placed themselves in an indefensible position, they joined the issue in a forum where they did not have a vestige of a chance to win. If Negroes in Elizabeth City really desire a Ne-

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
September 16, 1940

RIOT'S LEADERS SENT TO ROADS

Three of Eight Negroes Ac- cused of Inciting Riot Draw Two-Year Terms

Elizabeth City, Sept. 15.—After a four-hour session Friday afternoon in Recorder's Court, Judge Fentress Horner sentenced three of the eight Negroes on trial for conspiracy and other charges in connection with Monday night's riot to two years apiece on the roads and continued a prayer for judgment on a fourth until it could be learned whether or not he was old enough to come under the jurisdiction of the court.

The three found guilty of misdemeanors and given the maximum sentence of two years were March Jones of Hunter Street, John T. White of Green Street and Alenza Statten of Green Street. Prayer for judgment was continued in the case of Willie Wilson.

Found not guilty and released were Roland Spellman, Mayo Williams, Banks Statten and James White.

Two of the convicted asked for appeal bonds. Bond for March Jones was set at \$1,000, and for Alenza Statten at \$500.

The riot occurred at a local Negro theatre and followed replacement of a Negro manager by a white manager.

RIOTS- 1940

PENNSYLVANIA

Over 1,000 Brave Heat To Attend Funeral Of Innocent Riot Victim

Elmwood's Negro citizenry turned out en masse last Friday for the funeral of Phillip Jones, World War veteran and one of that section's leading businessmen, who died July 12 as a result of injuries sustained during a race riot at 83rd street and Tindrum avenue on July 12.

Approximately 1,000 persons—men, women and children—braved the intense heat to view Jones' body last Thursday night, and attend the services at Calvary Baptist Church, 86th street and Erwig avenue.

John K. Yarborough, undertaker in charge, with offices at 8801 Erwig avenue, a stone's throw from Calvary Baptist, declared that Jones' funeral was one of the biggest and one of the most stirring in the history of Elmwood.

Many Mourners

And not only were the mourners limited to that immediate neighborhood. There were friends and acquaintances of the victim present from Philadelphia, Darby, Paschall, Chester.

"He was one of our most outstanding citizens, and we all are saddened by his untimely, tragic death," said the Rev. J. A. Crawford, pastor of Calvary Baptist, who officiated.

The deceased was eulogized by the Revs. W. H. Leamon, pastor of First Baptist Church, of Paschall; A. A. Burns, former pastor of Calvary Baptist, and a number of lay leaders.

Large Procession

Twenty-five coaches were in the funeral procession, and the body was interred at Mt. Lawn cemetery.

That Negroes residing in Elmwood and Southwest Philadelphia were aroused over Jones' death, there are no doubts, because for three days afterwards the police was increased in the district.

Two or three subsequent clashes between whites and Negroes of Elmwood are alleged to have occurred following the first fight.

Not in Rioting

According to reliable reports, Jones, who was 51-years-old, was an innocent victim of that riot. Witnesses said that he was not a participant, and had become involved by a twist of fate.

They said that Jones, who operated a grocery store at 87th street and Erwig avenue, was ill and was enroute to a drugstore when he passed the picnic grounds at 83rd street and Tindrum avenue. As he was passing one of the white rioters is alleged to have

struck him, knocking him unconscious.

Besides Jones, four others were hurt during the fracas, one Negro and three white men. They were: Joseph Kennedy, 17, of Erwig avenue near 89th street; and Adolph Dolgre, 21, of 229 Christian street; Joseph Barishek, 18, of 230 Manton street; Frank Zimmie, 28, of 123 Beck street, all white.

Thousand in Skirmish

Police said that approximately 1000 persons participated in the riot. They used knives, bricks, bottles and clubs on each other.

The whites were parishioners of St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church, 3rd and Fitzwater streets. Police broke up the disturbance about an hour after it started.

Persons close to Jones said that he was engaged to be married, and owned a number of properties in Elmwood. He had been in business there since 1918, shortly after arriving from France.

Surviving are two sisters, one of whom is Mrs. Mary Taylor, with whom he lived; two brothers, a number of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

RIOTS- 1940

White, Colored Fight; 5 Jailed

A near-riot between whites and Negroes pushed police cars to 83rd street and Tintum avenue, East Sunday night, as several alleged rioters were hurt and arrested.

Three white men and two Negroes were seriously injured in the melee, and more than a score of police were called to the scene. The injured were treated at hospitals and later slated by police on charges of aggravated assault and battery and inciting to riot.

The Negroes implicated are: Phillip Jones, 51, of Erwig avenue near 87th street, taken to the Mercy Hospital, 50th street and Woodland avenue, with severe head injuries and a broken left leg, and Joseph McKinney, 17, of Erwig avenue near 89th street, treated at Mercy Hospital for cuts of the left ear and head.

The whites are: Adolph Dolgre, 21, of 229 Christian street, who was treated at St. Agnes Hospital for a possible skull fracture; Joseph Barishek, 18, of 3rd street, treated at St. Vincent's Hospital for a knife cut on the neck, and Frank Zimmie, 23, of 123 Beck street, treated at Fitzgerald-Mercy Hospital for left shoulder and head cuts.

According to police, knives, rocks, bottles and clubs figured in the free-for-all as nearly 1000 men, women and children, leaving a picnic at Schutzen Park, clashed with Negro residents of the Elmwood section.

The women and children, parishioners of St. Stanislaus's Roman Catholic Church, 3rd and Fitzwater streets, fled to the safety of several double-deck buses awaiting them near the entrance as the men with them hurriedly searched for weapons.

Police further stated that the riot started when some of the Negroes made slighting remarks about the girls in the picnicking party.

It lasted for nearly an hour, and police had to escort the picnic buses away from the scene.

Riot Near As Police Fire On Youths

A riot was narrowly averted

in South Philadelphia, last Tuesday night, when police attached to the red and motorcycle divisions endangered the lives of scores of pedestrians by opening fire with their service revolvers on three teen-age boys at 20th and Bainbridge streets.

Bystanders showed signs of being incensed over the attempts of the officers to wound or fatally injure the boys, and when one of the officers allegedly struck one, W. Brady Dixon, Jr., 15, of 118 Price street, about the head and body with his fists, eye-witnesses showed signs of being ready to defend the victims from further punishment.

Only the intervention of a bystander prevented a clash between the officers and several witnesses who said they heard one policeman say: "Shoot the n—r," referring to the Dixon boy.

The other boys involved are Leonard Robinson, 12, of 2025 Fitzwater street, son of the late Detective William Robinson, and Richard Martin, 10, of 2025 Pemberton street.

Ramond Pace Alexander, attorney, has been retained to represent the Dixon boy, who is a son of Randy Dixon, Philadelphia newspaper editor. Young Dixon's father and mother, the latter a daughter of the late Detective Robinson, said that he suffered severe pains in the head and incessant nose bleeds for days after the incident.

INVESTIGATION REPORTED

According to reliable reports, Superintendent of Police Howard Sutton has instituted an investigation of the affair and has pledged the parents of the boys involved that he will act in accordance with his findings.

Civic organizations, after becoming acquainted with the facts, pledged to push the fight to bring the police involved before the proper authorities. Organizations already in the case are the Philadelphia Branch of the N.A.A.C.P., the Allied Civic Organizations, and the Philadelphia Youth Movement.

BOYS THROWING STONES

The boys were returning from a playground in the neighborhood when they passed Patrolman David James, who was in front of the 20th and Fitzwater streets police station. They were throwing stones, and when James called to them to stop, they ran.

James gave chase, but did not fire. The white policemen were turning the corner in a red car and fired at the fleeing boys.

Taken to the station after being caught, the boys were released without any charges being placed against them.

PENNSYLVANIA

GROCCER WHO SLAPS NEGRO WOMAN IS CAUSE OF OUTBREAK

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — (AP) — The slapping of an unidentified colored woman by a white grocer here last week resulted in a riot involving 1,000 sympathizers who destroyed merchandise and nearly wrecked the store.

The mob, gathered soon after news of the "slap" reached outsiders, smashed crates of vegetables in front of the store, hurled melons and tomatoes at the owner, Z. Butler, and his son, Sam, and sent bricks crashing through plate glass windows.

The action occurred according to Police Capt. Homer Edmonson, after Butler slapped the woman during a dispute over a pair of hose which she had purchased and wished to return. After the slap, which witnesses say stunned the woman into semi-consciousness, Butler locked his store and fled to safety in the rear of the building. He was not injured.

Boycott of the store, which is in the center of a Negro neighborhood, is promised by residents of the district. The woman "slapped" has disappeared.

Dallas Whites Try to Bomb Negro Homeowners

DALLAS. — What observers have regarded as nothing less than a week-long state of siege in which some 100 whites, most of them housewives, have fought to keep two Negro families from occupying homes they purchased in a former "white" neighborhood came to a climax here Thursday September 12, when an attempt was made to bomb the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Walker, 3616 Howell Street.

Terrorizing of the families, who moved into the Howell Street section on September 3, began shortly after moving vans had drawn up to 3619 and 3616 Howell Street.

Backed up by the local branch of the NAACP, under the leadership of Dr. George F. Porter, the Negro residents have refused to move.

Dallas Whites Attempt To Bomb 2 Negro Homes SEP 21 1940

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NEGROES SORE WARN OF RIOT, GUARD SCHOOL

Whites Trying To Halt Negro Expansion In Community

OCT 12 1940

(Special to Amsterdam News)

DALLAS, Tex.—The militant attitude of colored citizens of this city stopped a near race riot last Friday night when a mob of whites entered the "colored section" to demand that colored residents leave their homes and turn the area over to whites.

A threat to dynamite the Lincoln High School resulted in an armed guard being thrown around the recently completed PWA structure on orders or "shoot to kill," if anyone should try to damage the beautiful building.

Mrs. Lola Jeffries, 30, defied the mob of white rowdies "to touch a single Negro in this town." Police, most of them sympathetic to the whites, placed Mrs. Jeffries under arrest on a charge of aggravated assault when she refused to give up a hammer which she was carrying under her arm.

Segregation Planned The interracial disorder started when colored people continued to purchase homes in an area thickly populated by poor whites. Ridiculing the efforts of whites to scare colored citizens, another man jumped in front of the invading whites and burlesqued their efforts. Police, who arrested him, characterized him as "drunk and crazy."

Later, the man said: "These white people always say we're crazy when we stand up for our rights. I know what I'm doing and I'll bet you there will be no lynching or anything else here. We're going to call their bluff and that is that."

A chauffeur, Lewis Gay, who purchased a home bordering on the so-called "white area" for \$3,000 in cash last week, left his home during the disturbance and intimated that he would remain away until the violence was stopped.

City Manager James W. Aston promised both the whites and blacks that a solution would be reached by the end of this week. Aston said: "We have a permanent plan arranged by which we will be able to segregate the white from the colored but it will be quite sometime before the plan is made definite."